FEATURING THE MACABRE MASTER OF FEAR--
THE SCARECROW!
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BAT MAN
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ADVERTISEMENT

"MERA MEETS THE MANTA MEN"

AQUAMAN™

SUFFERING SWORDFISH, MERA, SHARKS!!! HEADING FOR THE BEACHES!

PEOPLE WILL BE HURT!

AND MY TELEPATHIC POWERS CAN'T TURN THEM BACK. SOMETHING ELSE IS DRIVING THEM AGAINST THEIR WILL. LOOK!!!

DEADLY MANTA MEN! WITH EVERY SWEEP OF THEIR WINGS THEY EMIT DEADLY STUN BLOWS THAT CONTROL THE SHARKS' WILL.

MANTA MEN! THEIR STUN BLOWS ARE DRIVING THE SHARKS TO THE BEACHES AGAINST THEIR WILL.

ANOTHER EVIL PLAN OF BLACK MANTA TO SEIZE MASTERY OF THE OCEANS!

KRAAACK

MERA CALLS UPON HER OTHER DIMENSIONAL POWER TO SHAPE WATER INTO A HUGE HARD-WATER HAND.

MY GIANT HARD-WATER HAND WILL GIVE THOSE MANTA MEN SOMEHING BETTER TO DO THAN EMIT STUN BLASTS.

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FRUIT PIE

LOOK, MERA! THE MANTA MEN ARE GRABBING THE *HOSTESS FRUIT PIES*. THEY CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THEM

*APPLE! LIGHT TENDER CRUST.*

*CHERRY! REAL FRUIT FILLING.*

KRAACK!

THEY'RE SO BUSY EATING THEY HAVEN'T TIME TO EMIT STUN RAYS. AND THE SHARKS ARE SWIMMING BACK TO WHERE THEY BELONG!!!

ALL IS SERENE UNDER THE SEA ONCE MORE.

I'M CONVINCED FINGERS AND HANDS WERE MEANT FOR GOOD THINGS--LIKE *HOSTESS FRUIT PIES*.

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FRUIT PIE CHERRY

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ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...
CREATED BY BOB KANE
THE BATMAN
THIS IS WHAT I PROMISE! THE DAUNTLESS BATMAN IN THE FIERY GRIP OF TERROR--PITTED AGAINST HIMSELF AND THE SECRET OF HIS OWN HIDDEN--AND UNSUSPECTED --FEAR!
COME TO THE FRIGHT FACTORY-- AND MEET THE MALEVOLENT MERCHANT OF HEARTQUAKE! THE SCARECROW! --SPECIALIST IN THE SHAKES, SHIVERS AND COLD SWEAT--MATCHING CUNNING AND CRUELTY AGAINST COURAGE IN --
"The SINISTER STRAWS of the SCARECROW"
WRITER: DAVID V. REED
ARTIST: SAL AMENDOLA
LETTERER: MILT SNAPINN
COLORIST: JERRY SERPE
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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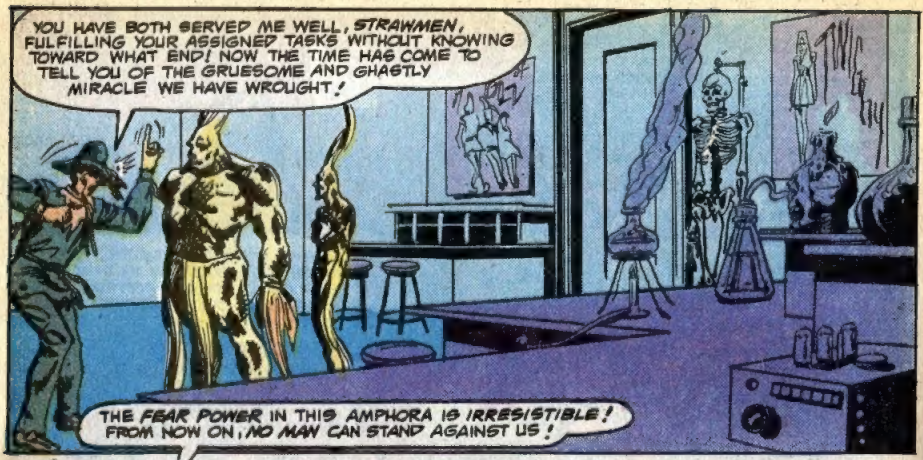
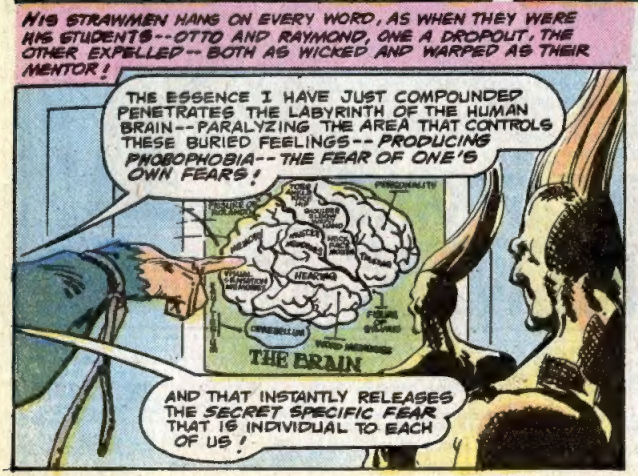

YOU HAVE BOTH SERVED ME WELL, STRAWMEN, FULFILLING YOUR ASSIGNED TASKS WITHOUT KNOWING TOWARD WHAT END! NOW THE TIME HAS COME TO TELL YOU OF THE GRUESOME AND GHASTLY MIRACLE WE HAVE WROUGHT!
THE FEAR POWER IN THIS AMPHORA IS IRRESISTIBLE! FROM NOW ON, NO MAN CAN STAND AGAINST US!

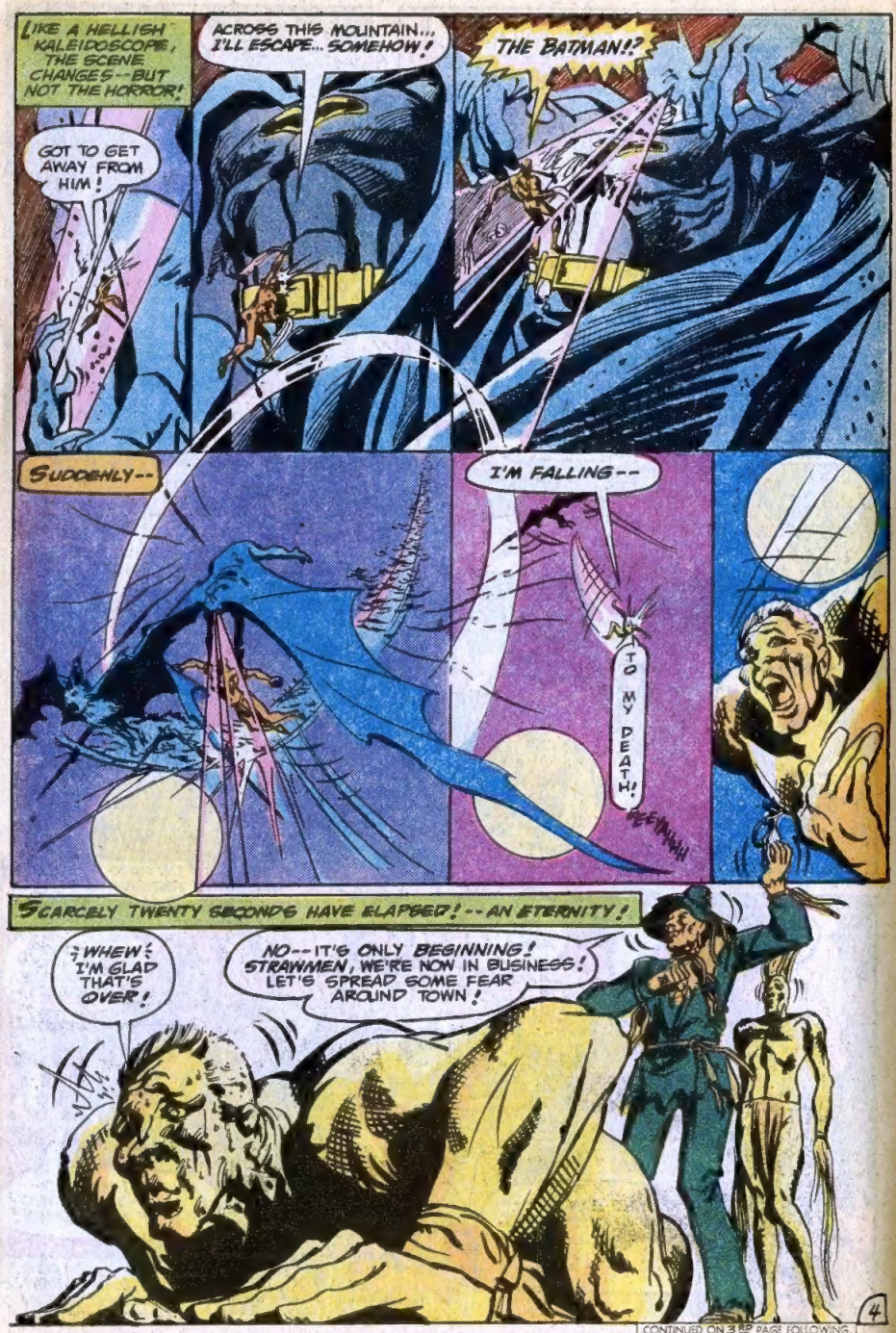
NOT EVEN THE BATMAN--?
THEY SAY HE IS TOTALLY WITHOUT FEAR OF ANY KIND!

AND NOW, FOR THE MOMENT, THE MASTER OF PANIC IS ONCE AGAIN JONATHAN CRANE, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY, LECTURING AT THE UNIVERSITY...
NONSENSE!
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A TOTALLY FEARLESS HUMAN!
EACH OF US HAS SOME SPECIAL, SUPREME DREAD--
--OFTEN UNKNOWN TO US--BURIED IN THE DEEPEST RECESSES OF OUR BEING!


HIS STRAWMEN HANG ON EVERY WORD, AS WHEN THEY WERE HIS STUDENTS--OTTO AND RAYMOND, ONE A DROPOUT, THE OTHER EXPELLED--BOTH AS WICKED AND WARPED AS THEIR MENTOR!
THE ESSENCE I HAVE JUST COMPOUNDED PENETRATES THE LABYRINTH OF THE HUMAN BRAIN--PARALYZING THE AREA THAT CONTROLS THESE BURIED FEELINGS--PRODUCING PHOBOPHOBIA--THE FEAR OF ONE'S OWN FEARS!
PERSONALITY
HEARING
THE BRAIN
AND THAT INSTANTLY RELEASES THE SECRET SPECIFIC FEAR THAT IS INDIVIDUAL TO EACH OF US!

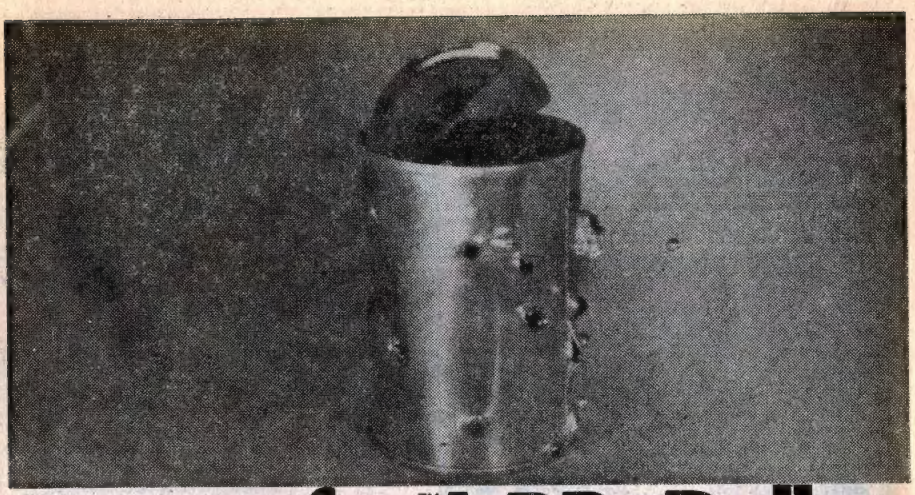
THUS, WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT THAT SECRET FEAR MAY PROVE TO BE, WE CAN BRING IT TO THE SURFACE--
--CAUSING OUR CHOSEN VICTIM TO REACT AS THOUGH THAT WHICH HE FEARS ABOVE ALL ELSE HAD BECOME A REALITY!

SO? WHERE'S YOUR ENTHUSIASM? YOU'RE NOT OVERWHELMED?
OH, YES, PROFESSOR! BUT, WELL ... YOU'VE TAUGHT US TO USE THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD... AND WE'VE HAD NO TEST CASE...
QUITE CORRECT! WHO WILL VOLUNTEER TO SAMPLE THE EFFECTS OF THE ELIXIR?
NOT ME!
ME NEITHER!
YOU ASKED, OTTO -- SO YOU SHALL SERVE AS THE GUINEA PIG!
REMOVE YOUR NOSE-FILTER!
NO! NOT HIM!
THE BATMAN -- EVERYWHERE!
HELP!
I'D HAVE GUESSED PYROPHOBIA (1) -- OR ALGOPHOPIA (2) -- OR PATHOPHOBIA (3) --
-- BUT OTTO'S HIT THE TRULY TERRIBLE JACKPOT --
CHIROPTERHOMO-PHOBIA -- THE PHOBIC FEAR OF THE BATMAN!
NOTE: (1) FEAR OF FIRE. (2) FEAR OF PAIN. (3) FEAR OF DISEASE.


LIKE A HELLISH KALEIDOSCOPE, THE SCENE CHANGES--BUT NOT THE HORROR!
ACROSS THIS MOUNTAIN... I'LL ESCAPE... SOMEHOW!
THE BATMAN!?
GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HIM!
SUDDENLY--
I'M FALLING--
TO MY DEATH!
SCARCELY TWENTY SECONDS HAVE ELAPSED! --AN ETERNITY!
WHEW! I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER!
NO--IT'S ONLY BEGINNING! STRAWMEN, WE'RE NOW IN BUSINESS! LET'S SPREAD SOME FEAR AROUND TOWN!



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING



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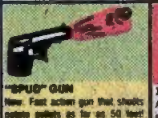

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INTRODUCING JARVIS SKIBO--A MAN WHO IS ABOUT TO HAVE A MOST EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE...
WHAT'S THIS ON MY DESK? TWO STRAWS--BENT TO FORM MY INITIALS!
WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?
MR. SKIBO PICKS UP ONE OF THE STRAWS--AND THE INSTANT HE TOUCHES IT--
IT CAUGHT FIRE..BY ITSELF! GIVING OFF DENSE SMOKE... FUMES...
I CAN'T SEE! CAN'T MOVE!
MY GOD! I'M LOCKED IN A COFFIN!
NO--NO--IT'S A MISTAKE!
I'M ALIVE! CAN'T ANYONE HEAR ME?
YOU'RE BURYING ME ALIVE!
5

AT THAT GHOULISH, HORRIFYING MOMENT--
TAPHEPHOBIA! SKIBO THINKS HE'S BEING BURIED ALIVE!
QUICK, NOW, RAYMOND-- BEFORE HIS HEART GIVES OUT -- THE ANTIDOTE!
IS HE STILL ALIVE?
IF HE ISN'T, WE'LL GO BACK TO THE TEST TUBE AND START ALL OVER AGAIN!
HEH...HEH! JUST A BIT OF GRIM HUMOR, SCARECROW!
AHH -- HE'S OUT OF IT!
FOR THE LOVE OF GOD -- STOP -- STOP!
JARVIS SKIBO, UNLESS YOU DO EXACTLY AS I SAY, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY... IRREVERSIBLY... BE ENTOMBED IN YOUR OWN NIGHTMARE AGAIN --
UNTIL IT COMES TRUE!
I KNOW YOU HAVE THE STATE TURNPIKE BONDS STOLEN FROM THE GOTHAM CITY NATIONAL BANK LAST OCTOBER!
WHEREVER THOSE BONDS ARE NOW HIDDEN, YOU'LL GET THEM -- AND DO AS FOLLOWS...
N-NO! -- NO! -- I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU TELL ME!

TWO DAYS LATER... 10 A.M.... AT THE GOTHAM CITY NATIONAL BANK... WHERE THE STARTLING, WILDLY IMPLAUSIBLE NEWS HAS SUMMONED SEVERAL OF THE BANK'S DIRECTORS--
--AMONG THEM, TYCOON BRUCE WAYNE--ALIAS THE BATMAN (OR IS IT VICE VERSA?)--WHICH GIVES HIM DOUBLE THE REASON TO BE THERE...
GOTHAM CITY NATIONAL BANK
ABSOLUTELY MYSTIFYING, MR. WAYNE! THEY WERE SIMPLY PLACED IN THE OUTSIDE DEPOSITORY SOME TIME LAST NIGHT--AND THEY'RE ALL HERE--EVERY LAST ONE OF THE TURNPIKE BONDS THAT VANISHED IN OCTOBER!
A HALF-MILLION... ALL NEGOTIABLE... RETURNED WITHOUT A WORD!
--AND WITHOUT A CLUE! THE ONLY PRINTS WE PICKED UP ARE FROM THE PEOPLE HERE WHO HANDLED THEM. SO THAT'S IT... NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO.
WE'VE GOT THE BONDS BACK, THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!
SEE YOU SOON, WAYNE!
FASCINATING! I'VE NEVER YET HEARD OF A CROOK WHO GAVE BACK ANY-THING... EXCEPT AS PART OF A CON--AN INVESTMENT--AND THIS IS QUITE AN INVESTMENT!
I WAS TOO BUSY LAST FALL TO TAKE THIS CASE ON WHEN IT FIRST POPPED... AND WENT INTO THE BOOKS AS AN UNSOLVED CRIME.
BUT NOW--WITH THIS BIZARRE STUNT--THEY'VE GIVEN ME A SECOND CRACK AT THEM--
--AND THAT'S ONCE TOO OFTEN!
THE NOON EDITIONS WILL ALL CARRY THIS STORY... SO, FIRST I'LL CALL COMMISSIONER GORDON AND ARRANGE TO THROW A CLINKER INTO THE WORKS--TIMED TO HIT THE EVENING PAPERS--THEN LOOK UP SCHEMER LEO!
IS ANYTHING WRONG, MR. WAYNE?
WRONG, MR. BALDWIN?
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WRONG ON A GLORIOUS MORNING WHEN YOU GET BACK A STOLEN HALF-MILLION DOLLARS?

NIGHTFALL... A ROOFTOP JUST OFF TIMES SQUARE...
LEO'S HOME, ALL RIGHT--BUT HE'S GOT HIMSELF SOME UNEXPECTED... AND VERY UGLY... VISITORS!
YOU RATTLED DEAD-EYE BONES* LAST NIGHT, SCHEMER LEO--AND WE'RE APPLYING FOR A REFUND!
*CROOKED DICE!
SORRY, BUT I HAVE PRIORITY!
I'M TAKING THE SCHEMER IN FOR EXTORTION!
--AND CONSIDER YOURSELVES LUCKY YOU'RE NOT GOING WITH HIM!
C'MON, YOU!

CONTINUED ON 35TH PAGE FOLLOWING

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BACK ON THE ROOFTOP...
YOU FIND OUT WHAT I WANTED?
THE MAIN SQUEEZE WAS A KID GLOVE WHO DIDN'T BLOW WITH NO RUMBUM SHONIKER! HE DUG A SHIFTER WHO DUMPED THE PAPER TO AN ACE MARKET FOR STIFFS! *
THE CAT YOU WANT IS BAGMAN JACK SKIBO!
LIE LOW TILL TOMORROW, THEN SAY YOUR LAWYER SPRUNG YOU!
THAT'LL KEEP YOUR GUNSEL PALS FROM SUSPECTING ANYTHING BETWEEN US!
* TRANSLATION: THE ORIGINAL THIEF WAS SMART ENOUGH TO AVOID AN ORDINARY FENCE! HE USED A SPECIAL AGENT WHO SOLD THE BONDS TO A TOP DEALER IN STOLEN SECURITIES!
AH, I SEE GORDON CAME THROUGH FOR ME!
RETURNED STOLEN BONDS
COUNTERFEIT
THAT SHOULD STIR THINGS UP A LITTLE--
--WHATEVER'S GOING ON!
AND STIR THINGS UP IT DOES--VIOLENTLY
COUNTERFEIT! HOW COULD IT BE? I WAS TESTING SKIBO TO SEE WHETHER HE'D CARRY OUT EXTREME ORDERS--OVER A PERIOD OF TIME!
GOTHAM POST
RETURNED BANK BONDS
COUNTERFEIT!
BUT EVEN IF THE EFFECTS OF THE ESSENCE WORE OFF--AND HE ACTUALLY DARED TRY TO TRICK ME--WHY DO THAT?
MY PLAN WAS FOOLPROOF! I ORDER SOMEONE TO RETURN THE LOOT TO ITS OWNER AT A SPECIFIED TIME--AND WHEN HE GOES THERE, I INTERCEPT HIM AND TAKE IT AWAY!
THAT MAKES IT ABSOLUTELY SAFE FOR US--AND NO RECOURSE TO THE POLICE FOR HIM!
SOMETHING WENT WRONG ON THAT TEST RUN--AND SKIBO IS GOING TO TELL US WHAT!
HE'LL BE AFRAID NOT TO, EH, SCARECROW?
AND--FORTY MINUTES LATER--THE ANSWER IS--
SKIBO, I WARNED YOU! YOU KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT!
¡GASP!! I SWEAR, SCARECROW--THOSE STORIES ABOUT COUNTERFEITS AREN'T TRUE!
THE BONDS I RETURNED WERE BONA FIDE--THE GENUINE ARTICLE!
9

YOU CAN'T LET ME DIE!--I DID EVERYTHING YOU SAID! SAVE ME!
YES, SKIBO--I CAN SAVE YOU--BUT NOT IF YOU STICK TO THAT PHONY STORY! I WANT THE TRUTH!
OTTO--THE STRAWS!
NO!--NO! NOT THAT!
YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN THE INSTANT THE STRAW TOUCHES YOU! THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE!
RAYMOND, OPEN THE TUBE--AND TAKE OUT A STRAW FOR MR. SKIBO!
THE NEXT INSTANT--
LET'S KEEP THE LID ON, SCARECROW!
AND THEN WE'LL PUT A LID ON YOU!
CRASH!

CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

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## THE EXPLOSIVE FIRST ISSUE OF

# FIRESTORM

BOOM!
THE BATMAN IS HURT... STUNNED--
--THOUGH ONLY MOMENTARILY--
--BUT THE DAMAGE IS DONE!
GONE!
SLIPPED THROUGH MY FINGERS... LIKE THAT TUBE!
THEN--
START TALKING, BAGMAN JACK! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT--EVERYTHING--!
TALK!
I...I CAN'T! IF I TALK, I'M DEAD!
AND THE MOMENT OF TRUTH ARRIVES FOR JARVIS SKIBO--
--WHEN HE KNOWS--AS MANY HAVE BEFORE HIM--
TALK!
--THE SURPASSING, LEGENDARY FEAR THAT THE BATMAN INSPIRES IN THE HEARTS OF MEN!
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LOOK AT THIS LAYOUT CHART!

"THE CURATOR TOOK THE BIBLE FROM THE VAULT TO THE RESTORATION ROOM FOR INSPECTION! HE WORKED ON IT AWHILE, THEN LEFT TO OPEN THE EXHIBITION HALL AT NOON--AND RETURNED FIVE MINUTES LATER TO FIND THE BIBLE GONE!..."

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THE THREE SECURITY MEN SWORE...AND WERE LATER CONFIRMED BY POLYGRAPH TESTS...THAT NO ONE HAD--OR COULD HAVE--WALKED BY THEM WITH THAT BIBLE!

NOT ONLY THAT! THE LIBRARY WAS CLOSED AND EVERY FOOT OF IT SEARCHED--WITHOUT A TRACE!

EVERY FOOT OF IT?...INCLUDING THE VAULT?

THE VAULT? NO...BUT WHY SHOULD THE THIEF PUT THAT BIBLE BACK IN THE VAULT?

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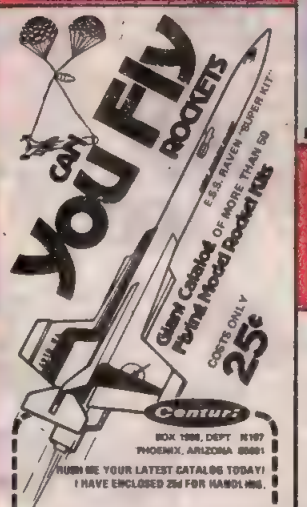


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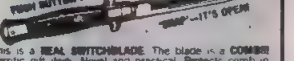


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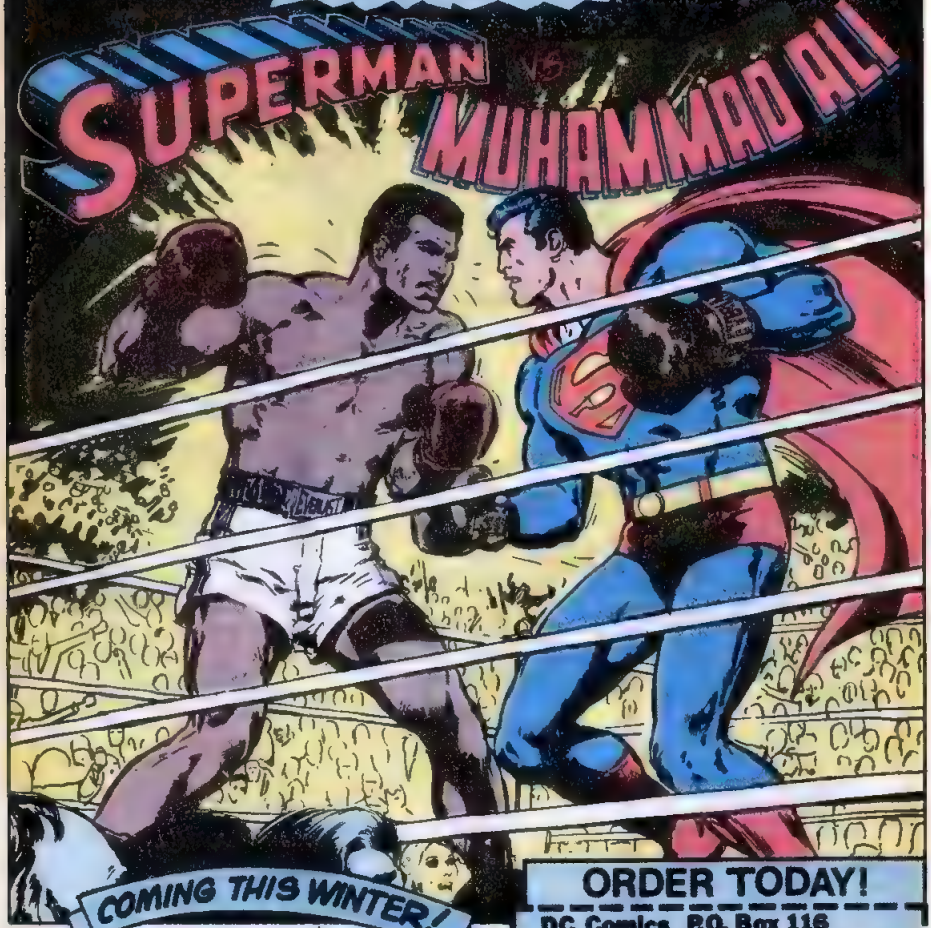

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EASILY...
...IF THE CULPRIT WERE SOMEONE WITH COMPLETE ACCESS TO THE VAULT!
B 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
HE'D GO IN THERE SOME NIGHT AFTER CLOSING... TAKE THE BIBLE... CRATE IT WITH OTHER BOOKS... AND THE NEXT DAY, HAVE THE MAIL ROOM SHIP THE CRATE TO A DROP!
NOW... OF THE FOUR WHO WENT INTO THE RESTORATION ROOM, ONLY ONE COULD HAVE DONE IT! OBVIOUSLY--
--THURSTON BINNS, THE DIRECTOR!
YES, COMMISSIONER, MR. BINNS-- WHO WILL NOW PROVE USEFUL IN BRINGING THE SCARECROW TO ME!
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT... AT THE RESIDENCE OF THURSTON BINNS... THE QUIET BROKEN ONLY BY THE DISCREET TICKING OF A CLOCK AND THE OCCASIONAL SOUND OF SNORING...
ALL AT ONCE--
WAKE UP, BINNS! YOU HAVE VISITORS!
W-WHAT? WHO ARE YOU IN THESE MONSTROUS MASQUERADES?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
CALM YOURSELF! I'LL EXPLAIN OUR MISSION IN A MOMENT!
BUT FIRST, I HAVE A FEW STRAWS HERE--RATHER REMARKABLE STRAWS-- AND I'D LIKE YOU TO EXAMINE ONE!

AND SUDDENLY...
...MR. BINNS MOVES--
--AS MR. BINNS HAS NEVER MOVED BEFORE!
IT'S ALL OVER, SCARECROW!

YES, ALL OVER, BATMAN--FOR YOU!
SHOW HIM, STRAWMEN!
BUT IS THE BATMAN WHO GETS IN THE FIRST BLOW...
...THE SECOND!...
...AND THIRD!...
BUT THE INSTANT THE BATMAN'S HANDS TOUCH THE SCARECROW--IGNITION!
SOMEHOW YOU KNEW ABOUT THE STRAWS IN THE TUBE--
--BUT NOT ABOUT THE SPECIAL STRAWS ON ME!
SCARE

NOW--EXPERIENCE THE ONE FEAR THAT WILL DESTROY YOU-- GNAWING AT YOUR VITALS-- YOUR BRAIN--YOUR VERY BEING!
I DO FEEL... SOMETHING... TERRIBLY FEARFUL...!
...A FEAR OF RUNNING INTO OVERWHELMING ADVERSITY... BEYOND MY ABILITY TO HANDLE!... OF LOSING MY CAPACITY TO CARRY ON MY WORK*--MY WAR AGAINST CRIMINALS!
BUT WHILE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HAUNTED BY THAT FEAR--I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT--
FIGHT IT OFF!
I MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER WHY I AM THE BATMAN!
AND THAT TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER EVERYTHING!
IT'S PART OF THE VERY FIBER OF MY BEING!
IT'S THE BASIS OF MY LIFE!
*WHAT THE SCARECROW WOULD DIAGNOSE AS INUTILOPHOBIA!



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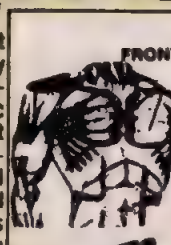


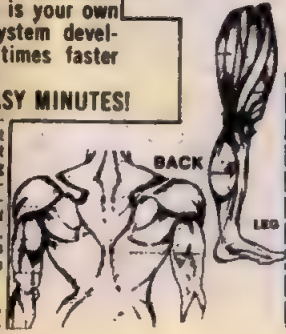

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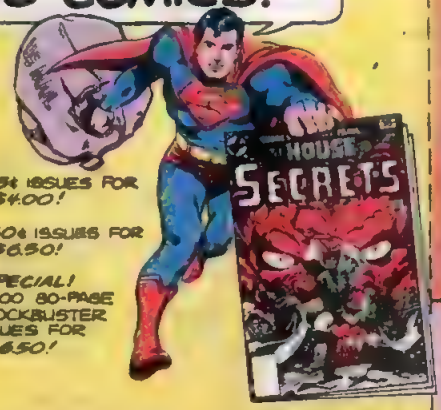


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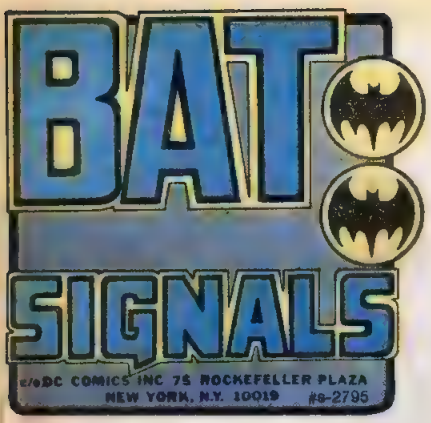
CASE CLOSED, COMMISSIONER! YOU'VE GOT THE GUTENBERG BIBLE--BINNS' CONFESSION--AND THE SCARECROW AND COMPANY SAFELY STOWED IN THE SLAMMER!
A MASTERFUL PIECE OF WORK FROM START TO FINISH, BATMAN! NOW TELL ME HOW YOU DID IT!
I HAD BINNS PHONE THE EVENING PAPERS AND ANNOUNCE AT MY...AH... FIRM SUGGESTION ...THAT HE'S RESIGNING FROM THE LIBRARY AND LEAVING GOTHAM TOMORROW FOR AN INDEFINITE VACATION...
...ALL QUITE TRUE IN ITS OWN WAY!
AS IT TURNED OUT, BINNS AND THE BIBLE WERE ON THE SCARECROW'S LIST...
...AND THAT ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IT IMPERATIVE FOR HIM TO ACT WITHOUT DELAY ON BINNS BEFORE HE LEFT TOWN--
--SO WHEN THE SCARECROW SHOWED, YOU--AS BINNS--WERE WAITING FOR HIM!
BUT HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO WITHSTAND HIS SINISTER STRAWS?..
SORRY, SIR--BUT I WON'T GO INTO THAT!
CONFOUND IT, BATMAN, I'VE BEEN SWEATING THIS OUT--WORRYING ABOUT YOUR HIDE--AND YOU WON'T TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S TOO...TOO PERSONAL. BUT I'LL SAY THIS--
--IT WAS A WONDERFULLY EXHILARATING EXPERIENCE!
EXHILARATING--? WHAT DO YOU MEAN--?
GOOD NIGHT, COMMISSIONER!



NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN DECEMBER




**Dear Gothamites:**

Now wait a minute! Before I let myself enjoy **BATMAN #292** too much, there are some things we're going to have to get settled. Just **why** do all these villains think **The Batman** is dead? Apparently, the body was never found, and the time and place of his alleged demise are wholly uncertain, so what do they have to go on? Does the general public think he's dead too? Do even **Robin, Alfred, Commissioner Gordon** and the **JLA** think **Batman's** deceased? If so, how are they reacting to the news?

Furthermore, to what extent, if any, are we to take the villains' testimony as true?Is it **all** true except for the endings in which **Batman** dies? **Two-Face** indicates that much of the **Riddler's** story did in fact take place. But are we meant to think that the **Riddler** actually shot **Batman** and that he survived? If it did happen, how could **Batman** have lived through it? If not, why would the **Riddler** tell such an unbelievable lie? (If it turns out that the **Batman** who got shot was actually **Superman** in disguise, I will demand my money back!)

**BATMAN #292** ("The Testimony of The Riddler") certainly poses questions, but it more than fulfills the promise shown by the **Catwoman** chapter of this four-parter. We start off with a very fine cover which immediately establishes the grim mood of this tale of **Batman's** journey towards "death". **Riddler's** characterization is done perfectly, combining gleeful prankishness and boastfulness with a new, brutal ferocity that manifests itself in his exploding mirror-riddle, his killing a man simply to provide a clue, and his savage "murder" of **Batman**. The story moves quickly, somehow compressing two issues' worth of events into one without seeming rushed, and every new plot development holds the reader fascinated. The riddles are for once appropriately complex and truly baffling. **Batman's** sudden appearance at the quarry admirably captures his nearly supernatural aura of invincibility. **Two-Face's** exposure of the truth is again brilliantly done, providing a dramatic finale to the mag.

In short, I was very pleased indeed. You are producing truly great work in both **BATMAN** and **DETECTIVE** these days. Unquestionably, "The Testimony of The Riddler" was a . . . uh, dynamite story!

**PETER SANDERSON**
**27 Gov. Belcher Lane**
**Milton, MA 02186**

**(Hopefully, your questions were cleared up in *BATMAN #294*, as far as who believed *Batman* was dead. As for the *Riddler's* true-or-false story, we don't see him swearing to tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth" in the story, so what do you think?—BR)**

* * * * *

**Dear Editor:**

When I read the first part of the "Underworld Olympics" series some issues ago, I was very disappointed in it. Who could take such a thing seriously? But I soon realized that if you set this point aside, the stories were excellent and internally consistent which made suspension of disbelief much easier. So when I read "Where Were You on the Night Batman Was Killed?", my reaction was the same. Who could take such a thing seriously? But, remembering the previous case, I decided to wait and see if time would change my view.

Unfortunately, it didn't work out that way! In getting the stories from the villains' viewpoints, we miss all the brilliant deductions and little insights that make David V. Reed's depiction of **The Batman** so interesting. Indeed, we never learn how **The Batman** performs some of the miracles and the fact that we know the reported story is a lie destroys what little interest there is in the rest.

**RICK PETERSON**
**2533 Hillegass #305**
**Berkeley, CA 94704**

**(While it is virtually impossible for any reader to believe that *Batman* could *really* be dead, if we had told the stories from his point of view, there could be no doubt at all that he wasn't! As for the Reed *Batman* you enjoy, he's back this issue, brilliant deductions and little insights intact. Okay?—Bob Rozakis)**

* * * * *

**Rich Morrissey, *Batmaniac* supreme, has just sent us the latest issue of *BATMANIA*, which includes the somewhat late, but nonetheless interesting, results of his *Batmania* Poll for 1975.**

**His readers voted "The Curious Case of Catwoman's Coincidences" (*BATMAN #266*) their favorite, with "The Daily Death of Terry Tremayne" (*BATMAN #269*) a close second.**

**The "Bat-Murderer" series (*DETECTIVE #'s 444-448*) was a big winner in the specials and team-ups department. "The Joker's Double Jeopardy" (*JOKER #1*) copped best *Batman* "family" honors, followed closely by "The Parking Lot Bandit" (*DETECTIVE #'s 450-451*) and "A Gold Star For The Joker" (*JOKER #4*).**

**In the personal achievement departments, writer Denny O'Neil, artist Jim Aparo and *Bat*-editor Julius Schwartz topped the lists.**

**The voting on 1976 is going on as we write this, and we hope to have a full report on them as soon as Rich tallies the votes.**

**Meantime, if you'd like to see a copy of *BATMANIA*, it's a dollar for one issue, or $3.75 for a four-ish subscription. The address is Richard Morrissey, 55 Claudette Circle, Framingham, MA, 01701! Tell him who sent you!**

* * * * *

**Only four more issues to *BATMAN #300* and . . . oops, out of room!**

EXTRA DAILY PLANET EXTRA

VOLUME 77 ISSUE 45 WEEK OF NOVEMBER 7, 1977 BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

# POWER GIRL FLIES SOLO!

**BLONDE BOMBSHELL BURSTS INTO BATTLE**

(Earth-2)—Since the return of the *Justice Society* in *ALL-STAR COMICS* and the introduction of *Power Girl*, hundreds of readers have demanded to know more about this blonde bombshell!

Well, settle back, America—your questions are about to be answered as Paul Levitz, Joe Staton and Joe Orlando combine to bring a three-issue series starring *Power Girl* to *SHOWCASE*, beginning with *#97*, which goes on sale the week of November 14th.

You'll learn the origin of the loveliest *Justice Society* member and also meet a gang of villains that are determined to cut her career short in "Power Girl!" Paul Levitz calls this issue "fun, fun, fun!" We call it a *SHOWCASE* trilogy you dare not miss!

**CREEPER PROWLS IN WORLD'S FINEST**

(Gotham City)—Jack Ryder, a.k.a. *The Creeper*, is back on the prowl again, this time starring in his own feature in *WORLD'S FINEST*, beginning with *#249*. Scripted and drawn by his creator, Steve Ditko, *The Creeper* battles mayhem at his television station in "Moon Lady and the Monster!"

But that's hardly all that'll be in WF #249 when it goes on sale the week of November 14th. *Superman* and *Batman* are joined by the Phantom Stranger to battle "The Vampire of Steel" in a Bob Haney/Kurt Schaffenberger/Tex Blaisdell story. *Green Arrow* and *Black Canary* ask "Will the Costume Make the Hero?" in a Gerry Conway/Trevor vonEeden /Vince Colletta tale and *Wonder Woman* and *Sgt. Rock* face a "Fire in the Sky" in a Conway/Mike Vosburg/Colletta collaboration.

## DIRECT CURRENTS

*ON SALE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 14th*

*AQUAMAN #60*—The king of the sea in a deadly battle in "Scavenger, Ravager, Plunderer, Thief" by David Michelinie, Don Newton and John Celardo. Plus: *Mera* finds herself at the "Edge of Nowhere" by Paul Kupperberg, Juan Ortiz and Vince Colletta.

*GHOSTS #61*—"When Will I Die Again?" by George Kashdan and Bill Payne; "The Specter Screamed—KILL" (art by Frank Redondo); and "When Phantoms Stalked the Wolf-Pack" by Carl Wessler and Rubeny fill the issue.

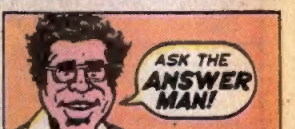
*G.I. COMBAT #206*—A trio of *Haunted Tank* adventures, all by Robert Kanigher and Sam Glanzman: "A Tomb For a Tank", "Slaughter in the Skies", and "One Way Bridge to Hell". Plus two *O.S.S.* thrillers: "The Two Faces of a General" by Kanigher and E.R. Cruz and "Purple Heart for a Pigeon" by Bart Regan and Cruz. And: "The Lady Was a Killer" by Jan Laurie, Dick Ayers and Danny Bulanadi, "A Helmet Full of Dreams" by Kanigher and Ric Estrada, and a fistful of battle features!

*SGT. ROCK #313*—Robert Kanigher and Doug Wildey present another battle mission for the combat-happy joes of *Easy*.

*SUPER FRIENDS #10*—The new *Super Friends*, *Zan* and *Jayna*, join the *JLAers* to battle "The Monster Menace" by E. Nelson Bridwell, Ramona Fradon and Bob Smith.

*AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:*

*BATMAN #296/THE FLASH #258/HOUSE OF SECRETS #150/METAL MEN #56/MR. MIRACLE #22/SUPERMAN #320/WEIRD WAR TALES #60*




*Q:* I sent in a question months ago. Why haven't you answered it?—Paul Schmidt. *A:* We're swamped with questions for the Answer Man and it'll take a long time to get through all of them. Please be patient, everyone!

*Q:* Does *The Atom* have his own magazine?—Allan Lefler. *A:* He did at one time, but currently appears regularly in *JUSTICE LEAGUE!*

*Q:* Did the *Crimson Avenger* have a sidekick?—Daniel Billings. *A:* His sidekick was *Wing*, whose death was revealed in *JLA #102*.

*Q:* Are *Lightning Lad* and *Light Lass* related?—Mike Finley. *A:* They are brother and sister.

**HOT BUBBLE GUM.** Large pieces of real bubble gum but with hot pepper inside! The more they chew the hotter it gets — Great fun.
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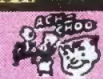


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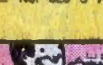

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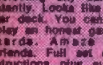

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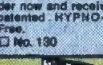

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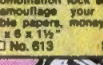

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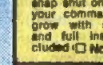

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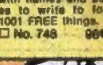

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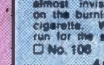

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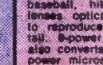

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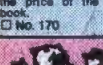

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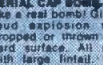

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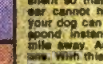

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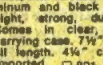

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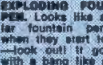

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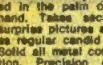

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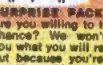

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